

# Montana Laboratory Sentinel



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10/13/2010

## CDC Recommends Flu Shots for All Ages

By Emily P. Walker, Washington Correspondent, MedPage Today

Published: October 07, 2010

WASHINGTON -- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has expanded its flu vaccine indications to include every American over the age of six months, as the nation's health officials prepare for what it anticipates will be a fairly typical flu season.

That recommendation includes pregnant women, who can pass some flu immunity onto their newborns, said Thomas Frieden, MD, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at a CDC press briefing.

The emphasis on pregnant women is particularly important since the flu vaccine cannot be given to infants younger than six months old, he said.

Frieden was joined by other public health officials and representatives from medical and pharmacy groups as the CDC rolled out this year's seasonal flu vaccine campaign.

"The flu vaccine is the best way to protect yourself from the flu," Frieden said. The 2010 vaccine -- which is already available in many places -- will protect people against H3N2, influenza B, as well as H1N1 virus that made last year's flu season anything but normal. H1N1 was detected too late in 2009 to be included in the seasonal flu vaccine.

According to a report published by the CDC in the Oct. 8 issue of *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, seasonal flu is thus far following a normal pattern spreading with initial cases reported in the Southern Hemisphere. The report, which tracked worldwide flu cases from June through September, confirmed that the cases confirmed thus far were divided among three influenza strains: H1N1, H3N2, and Influenza B.

Worldwide, influenza B was the viral type most commonly identified until early July when the 2009 strain of H1N1 took over as the predominant strain, CDC researchers wrote.

Public health officials said there are already 119 million doses available in the United States and that the supply is expected to top 150 million. Still, that's not enough to vaccinate everyone.

However, vaccination rates don't come close to reaching 100%, in part because of misconceptions people have about the vaccine, such as that getting a flu shot can cause you to get the flu, said Daniel Jernigan, MD, MPH, deputy director of the CDC's influenza division.

For more of this article, go to:

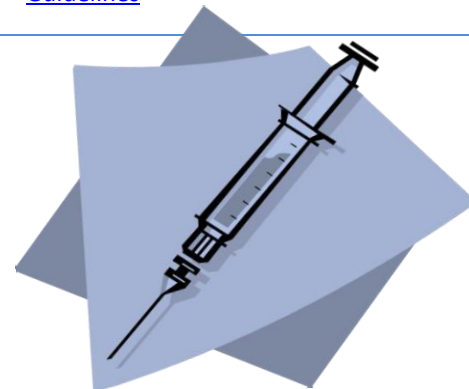
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## Statewide Clinical Laboratory Influenza Call

The notes to the call, as well as the guidelines for this season, are posted on our website under the hot topics link. You can access them directly at the following address:

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/Lab/lab-hot-topics.shtml>. Please forward this on to others in your facility who might also need the information.

- [Notes: October 7, 2010 Teleconference](#)
- [MTPHL Laboratory Capacity](#)
- [MTPHL Laboratory Surveillance Guidelines](#)
- [MTPHL Laboratory Diagnostic Testing Guidelines](#)



## Revised SHEA Position Paper: Influenza Vaccination of Healthcare Personnel

Thomas R. Talbot, MD, MPH, et. al.

Read where the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America stands on the responsibility of health care workers to be vaccinated against influenza, for the safety of their patients.

Source: Infection control and hospital epidemiology, October 2010, vol. 31, no. 10  
Read the article at:  
<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/656558>

The current issue of the Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program Weekly Update for MMWR reporting week 39 can be found at: <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/epidemiology/documents/CDWeeklyUpdateWk39.pdf> This issue contains information about foodborne illness investigation resources, pertussis activity, and influenza prevention and surveillance